



Dodge County Healthy Soils Healthy Water Cover Crops Field Day

What was it about?

The Dodge County Farmer Led Healthy Soil Healthy Water Group put on a cover crop field day on October 18, 2017. The field day consisted of visiting local farmers wanting to showcase the vast benefits and varieties of cover crops that Midwestern farmers could grow in their fields to help keep living roots in the soil system and to maintain ground cover for as many days of the year as possible.

The groups that attended consisted of various farmers in the morning session, a small group of high schoolers from Beaver Dam in the afternoon session and Fox Lake and Beaver Dam Lake representatives in the evening.

Areas Visited

Gaska Farms – Jeff Gaska discussed his variable rate Red Clover plots and how they have benefited his soil and cropping systems.

Propst Site – Brenden Blank (Byron Seed Inc.) talks about the 13 different cover crop mixes graciously donated by Byron Seed Inc. and how each variety can assist in various farm operations.

UW-Extension agent from Shawano County, Jamie Patton, discusses root structure of the various cover crop mixes and the growth and promotion of Mycorrhizal Fungi.

Weiss Farms – Marty Weiss discusses his strip-tilling techniques along with his interseeding with corn endeavors and the cover crop mix that he utilizes in his fields.

Jamie Patton once again jumps into a soil pit at the Weiss farm and discusses root structure and architecture in correlation with interseeding practices.



First Stop: Gaska's Farms



Far Left: Jeff Gaska's variable rate Red Clover test plots planted at 7 and 10 lbs. /ac.

Left: Jeff talking to fellow producers about his operation and the specifics of his experiences with cover crops.

Second Stop: Propst Site



Top Left: Brendan Blank discusses the various cover crop mixes located at the Propst site.

Top Right: Jamie Patton talks to farmers about root growth and Mycorrhizal Fungi associated with cover crops.

Bottom Left: A group of FFA students listen in to Jamie as she provides hands-on education about the intricacies of soil science.

Bottom Right: Lakefront landowners learn about soil health and agriculture.



Third Stop: Weiss's Farms

Right: Marty Weiss discusses his strip-tilling and interseeding efforts to a group of fellow farmers.

Far Right: Marty's results of interseeding annual rye, rape and clover in with corn.

